City of Burbank - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
BUILDING DIVISION

Permit Requirements:
ILLUMINATED SIGNS

PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applications for signs must comply with requirements of the City of Burbank Zoning Code, as determined by Planning Division, and the California Building Code, which includes the 2008 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (BEES) of the California Energy Code. Installation of a sign in a location that is adjacent to a public street, sidewalk, or alley will require approval from the City of Burbank Public Works Department prior to permit issuance.

The energy regulations apply to all indoor and outdoor:

- Internally and externally illuminated signs
- Unfiltered light emitting diodes (LEDs)
- Unfiltered neon
- Sign alterations where the connected power is increased, more than 50 percent of the ballasts are replaced and rewired, or the sign is relocated to a different location on the same site or on a different site.

The energy regulations do not apply to:

- Exit and traffic signs, which must meet the requirements of Title 20 Appliance Efficiency Regulations.
- Unfiltered incandescent lamps that are not part of an electronic message center (EMC), an internally illuminated sign, or an externally illuminated sign.
- Sign alterations when only the lamps are replaced, the sign face is replaced, or the ballasts are replaced in the same position without rewiring.

1. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:

- The Standards require that indoor and outdoor sign lighting be automatically controlled so that it is turned off during daytime hours and other times when it is not needed. These controls must be certified by the manufacturer.
- The mandatory lighting requirements include automatic shutoff controls, dimming controls, and demand responsive controls for EMCs.
- All lighting controls must meet the requirements of BEES Section 119. The lighting standards are the same throughout the State and are independent of outdoor lighting zones.
- A SLTG-C Certificate of Compliance shall be submitted with the permit application.

2. SIGN LIGHTING POWER : Two different prescriptive options exist:

A. **The Watts per Square Foot Approach** specifies a maximum power allowance of 12 watts per square foot of sign face area for internally illuminated and 2.3 watts per square foot for externally illuminated. For double-faced signs, only the area of a single face can be used to determine the allowed lighting power unless the lamps are isolated by an opaque divider, such as in a deep or irregularly shaped sign cabinet. According to the Energy Commission, this approach allows sign makers maximum flexibility. Any new light technology may be used as long as it meets the power allowance and the components do not exceed the maximum watts allowed.

B. **The Specific Technology Approach** specifies that the signs shall be illuminated with efficient lighting sources. The sign must be illuminated only with one or more of the following light sources:

1. High pressure sodium lamps
2. Pulse start or ceramic metal halide lamps that are served by a ballast with a minimum efficiency of 88%.
3. Pulse start metal halide lamps that are 320 watts or smaller, are not 250 watt or 175 watt lamps, and are served by a ballast that has a minimum efficiency of 80%. (Where ballast efficiency is the measured output wattage to the lamp divided by the measured operating input wattage.
4. Neon or cold cathode lamps with transformer or power supply efficiency greater than or equal to the following:
   a. Minimum efficiency of 75% when the transformer or power supply rated output current is less than 50 mA; or
   b. Minimum efficiency of 68% when the transformer or power supply rated output current is 50 mA or greater, (Where power supply efficiency is the ratio of the output wattage to the input wattage at 100% tubing load.)
5. Fluorescent lamps with a minimum color rendering index (CRI) of 80.
6. Light emitting diodes (LEDs) with a power supply having an efficiency of 80% or greater. (Single voltage external power supplies that are designed to convert 120 volt AC input into lower voltage DC or AC output, and have a nameplate output power less than or equal to 250 watts, shall comply with Title 20.)
7. Compact fluorescent lamps that do not contain a medium screw base sockets (E24/E26).
8. Electronic ballasts with a fundamental output frequency not less than 20 kHz.